The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1918, at the Post-Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1109, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 13, NO. 6. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1923. WHOLE NO. 629.

FEUD CAMPS AND COMPANY TOWNS FOREIGN TO DEMOCRACY

Judge Gary does not like the immigration law. He says it is "one of the worst things this country has ever done for itself economically."

This statement was made when the steel trust is smashing all production and profits records. Yet Judge Gary wants cheaper labor. He has been forced to raise wages from 36 to 40 cents an hour for unskilled labor, but that is too expensive. He wants to tap the vast reservoir in southeastern Europe, which contains the cheapest white labor in the world.

Some business executives who boast of their foresight and capacity are often superficial; they mask behind a thin veneer.

They are so unmindful of the welfare of their country and themselves that they would unloose that wild, untangled mass in southeastern Europe, where every bitterness and passion has been fanned to white heat by rivals in the world war.

These elements of chaos and discord would be implanted on American soil, if the huntsmen for cheap labor had their way.

They would centralize every European hate and revolutionary impulse among a people engrossed in the problem of self-government.

In company towns, controlled by industrial feudalists, immigrants from these "stocked" nations would be played one against the other. All the malice of century-rooted prejudices would be cunningly inflamed by profit mongers.

These feud camps in every industrial center would be intended as a check on American labor. Instead, they would be a menace to civic and political development.

Leaving aside the very practical question as to what extent this condition would affect wages and living standards, the question might be asked: "To what extent will it affect the American ideal of government?"

The corporations reply that they will Americanize these immigrants.

This, of course, is publicity "stuff." It is only accepted by a few simple-minded folk who yet believe the steel trust and its kind exist solely to serve the people.

These trusts must be judged by their past. They had ample opportunity to Americanize immigrants, but the company town flourished. The trusts will not Americanize immigrants because the latter would then demand American working conditions.

If the steel trust believed in American conditions it would not now call for immigrants. Neither would it be necessary for men to work a 11 and 13-hour day to earn a living wage.

The men who are demanding immigration are profits crazed. Excepting dividends, they have not a single ideal.

They would have America a polyglot country of tribes and clans, rather than a nation of firm resolve and distinct characteristics, such as it is intended to be.

To say that high wages is labor's reason for opposing immigration is a most natural position for trust defenders to take.

They can see no other side to this question. They have no civic outlook. Their vision is narrowed by their quest for gain.

The late George F. Baer spoke for them when he said that to him like himself "God in His infinite wisdom has given control of the property interests of the country."

How can men with such viewpoints conceive of an America devoid of old country prejudices and hates; of a country whose aspirations are not diluted by the steady flow of southeastern European—and even Oriental—characteristics so foreign to democracy?

Immigration is not a question of cheapness. The men who so consider it are dangerous citizens.

They would gamble the world's first venture in democracy for cheap labor and dividends.

OFFICIALS NOT KINGS; CAN'T STOP CRITICISM

Springfield, Ill., April 28.—When men were kings by an alleged divine right, criticism against government could be stopped, but not in these days, said the state supreme court, in dismissing the city of Chicago's $10,000,000 libel suit against the Chicago Tribune.

The newspaper criticised the city administration of 1920 for its part in the gubernatorial campaign of that year. The city's claims for damages sounded like the plea of an employer for a labor injunction.

The bill alleged that the city had been damaged by the libelous articles. Investors, it was claimed, would not buy city bonds, and the articles influenced contractors and others who had business dealings with the city, to demand onerous terms of payment. It was also alleged that the city's credit had been impaired.

"This action is out of tune with the American spirit and has no place in American jurisprudence," said the court.

"Since the people are sovereign, and since the magistrates are servants of the people, the magistrates can do no wrong and the people have a fundamental right to criticise them and to expose their inefficiency and corruption, that they may be punished.

"So long as critics of government refrain from advocating violence of the governments and every citizen has a right to criticise an inefficient or corrupt government without fear of civil, or criminal prosecution."

The suit is the first of its kind in this country, it is said. If the city won, the press of the nation would be effectively gagged.

ROADS UNDER PROBE; DON'T LIKE NEW PLAN

Washington, April 28.—Nearly 10 months after railroad shop men suspended work throughout the nation, the interstate commerce commission begins an inquiry into the condition of railroad equipment and management generally. A questionnaire has been forwarded to more than two score of the leading transportation systems. Some of the prominent anti-union roads are included. The shop men will be represented by their counsel, Henry Hentz, former mayor of Cincinnati and former public group member of the railroad labor board.

The shop men say it is now possible to compare the condition of roads that have accepted the Baltimore agreement with roads that are maintaining a lockout. The latter roads refused last September to accept a settlement proposed by President Harding.

The anti-union Lehigh Valley is the first road to be probed. The contention is acting under that portion of the transportation act which calls for "economical management" of the roads. The hard-boiled managers and financiers are furious at what they term the commission's "grandstanding." They are willing that the government guarantee them a fixed return, but they object to any investigation of the manner in which they spend money contributed through high freight and passenger rates.

JAPANESE MENACE WEST

Washington, April 28.—The Japanese are a menace to the west, attorneys for California and Washington told the senate committee of the United States in arguing the alien land cases before that body. These states seek to prohibit Japanese owning land, and Japs want the law set aside.

"The white people refuse to assimilate with the Japanese, and as the Japanese advances we retreat, and we do not like to retreat," said the attorneys.

"When the Japanese occupy land in our estates trade is ruined. Merchants who might become citizens. We believe our government, state and national, will be best protected and served when our lands are occupied by those who have sympathy with our institutions and can be compelled to contribute to its preservation."

BOARD CAN SET WAGES.

San Francisco, April 28.—Superior Court Judge Rector has ruled that the board of public works has the right to set a $9-a-day wage for granite cutters. Anti-union employers opposed the board's action. They insisted that the board pay $8 and less.

Judge Rector reminded the cheap-wage advocates that many employers are paying the $9 scale now, that the contrary were true, the city charter does not compel the board to follow the ratio of private employers, he said.

WIN STREET CAR STRIKE.

Memphis, Tenn., April 28.—After a two-day strike the local car company raised wages 4 cents an hour. Shop employes, conductors, and motormen were included. The shop men joined in the strike.

SECRET LOBBY AGENTS FORM POWERFUL BAND

Baltimore, April 28.—Labor is the one interest that is not represented in the exclusive and powerful "Monday lunch club," located in the nation's capital, says Frank R. Kent, Washington correspondent to the Baltimore Sun. The correspondent prints the names and connections of the members who are lobbyists for big business. They represent every interest. From them come many of the measures introduced in congress, and most of the last-minute amendments that are tacked on to bills as they go through.

"There are extremely few senators and representatives not affected one way or the other by these men," says the newspaper man, who states that lawmakers are subject to constant pressure from them and are continuously on the defensive against them.

Of the 145 who have headquarters in Washington there are, perhaps, 45 or 50 who are really effective, with sufficient financial or voting strength back of them to compel consideration.

"They have formed themselves into what is called the 'Monday lunch club.' It is a little known organization and it does not court publicity, and it has very little. You'll find Tom Chadbourne, perhaps, the most influential group of men in the country. Their names are not well known. They are not interviewed by the newspapers and they stay and work largely in the background, and every city block can make public speeches and their pictures do not often appear in the public prints.

"Their club is not a business organization. It is a social affair, run on friendly basis, lunching almost once a week at lunch. There are included in its membership the Standard oil representative, the railroad representative, the representatives of the coal interests, the leather interests, the beef interests, the sugar interests, the silk interests, the glove interests, the fertilizer interests, the cotton interests, the lumber interests, the wire interests, the steel interests and a number of other similar interests."

GUARDED ON "HELL SHIP," MEXICANS LEAP INTO SEA

San Francisco, April 28.—The Labor Clarion, official paper of the local ceatral body, prints this account of why Americans no longer follow the sea:

"Forty Mexicans, ready to sail on the Alaskan 'hell ship,' escaped from their ship early last Tuesday and swam ashore. The Bristol bay packing company's boat is a city-wide hunt for the men. They were on the barkentine City of Sydney, at pier 16. Although heavily armed guards patrolled the ship and nearby docks to prevent the escape of the cannery hands, the men made a daring escape. They swam to the Peterson launch company float, pulled themselves up to the dock and fled in the darkness."

Closed Sunday Theaters Urged By New York Labor

Albany, N. Y., April 28.—Resolutions favoring the closing of theaters and barber shops in New York city were adopted at a conference of the New York state federation of labor. Representatives of the organized labor movement from every city in the state were present.

In an address to the conference President Gompers declared the one day rest in seven should be preserved. Members of the Barbers' union said the Sunday closing movement in New York city is resisted by the Hebrew contingent.

SILLY BOSSES WHIMPER.

Los Angeles, April 28.—Oil owners complain bitterly that contempt that the I. W. W. is organizing a sabotage campaign that will affect their properties.

These employers waged war on the labor unions during the war on circumstances defeated these organizations. Now the oil owners find they are confronted by the very thing they were told would happen and are whimpering for government aid.

HATTERS URGE AMNESTY.

New York, April 28.—Amnesty to men imprisoned during the world war period for political offenses was urged by the convention of the United Hatters of North America. The resolution declares that this course has been followed by every other nation, and that "the labor movements of the entire world have gone on record in favor of complete amnesty for all political prisoners."

'TENTION, MR. GARY!

Baltimore, April 28.—While Judge Gary and the public press are joyful over the steel trust's 4-cent wage increase to unskilled workers, the building and construction laborers in this city raised wages to 45 cents an hour.

The steel trust raised rates from 36 cents to 40 cents; local contractors raised wages from 37 and 40 cents to 45 cents.

Low Wage Industrial Labor Offers No Hope To Farmer

Washington, April 28.—The farmers' hope is not in baiting labor, but in ending various systems which rob him of his purchasing power, says the farmers' national council, in a statement on its study of the domestic under consumption of agriculture. The council is composed of representatives of various farmers' organizations.

The statement refers to the 1921 report of the secretary of agriculture that "we produce more foodstuffs than our population can consume."

To this, the council replies: "The facts are that where there an equitable distribution of the income of the United States, that is of the wealth produced, the people would consume probably 50 per cent more than the total volume of farm products which we produce today, and there would have to be, doubtless, a change in some crops and readjustment to the changing demands of the people.

"It is clear that the American people are not now consuming anything like the amounts of farm products, either as food or clothing, that they need, and they can not consume that amount without a fairer distribution of the national income.

"Too much of the national income today goes in paying tribute to land speculators in the form of ground rent, in royalties, excess profits, dividends and interest.

"The farmers' hope for improving his economic condition lies not in baiting labor, but in ending the present economic, transportation, marketing, industrial and tax systems, which rob him of his power to purchase manufactured products, and which also kill his market right at home in robbing other workers and wage earners of incomes which they should spend for farm products. The need for a full and free home market for farm products, at a fair price to the farmer, is shown by the fact that in several of the northwestern states about 5 per cent of the farmers have lost their farms through reduced prices for farm products—in some states as high as 30 per cent. A much larger additional number will lose their farms with present prices to farmers and costs of production during this year, unless bankers extend unusual credit to them.

"Immediately following the war the great financial interests, which illegally accused the farmers of being profiteers during the war and always robbed them, started out to crush organized labor, and used three methods to do this. First, they tried to put through the un-American open shop drive, so as to break up labor organizations. They fell down about 90 per cent on this. Then they started to break down all legislation restricting immigration. They failed 50 per cent in this. These same interests then decided the best way to break labor was first to break the farmer and then finish labor organizations through migration of a million or a million and a half farmers' families and laborers to cities, mines, trade and transportation."

"But the 'little capitalist' farmer, when he gets to the city, or anywhere off the farm, will find the same interests which so ruthlessly exploited him will be there with equal vigor to crush him as a city worker."

MAGNIFY WAGE RATES TO CONCEAL PROFITS

New York, April 28.—These are the days when financial writers laud steel trust stockholders, because labor "is getting all the cream."

It is stated that the average wage per employe in the steel trust in 1921 was $1,739, and in 1920 was $2,173.

Against this claim is the fact that the wage for unskilled labor in the trust mills in 1921 for a 10-hour day was $4.02, and in 1920 the rate for a 10-hour day was $5.02.

On the basis of a 300-day working year, which is most extravagant, these rates would mean an average for unskilled labor in 1922 of $1,206 and in 1920 of $1,506 for a 10-hour day in 1920.

Financial writers make no attempt to adjust these facts with their claims of $1,739 and $2,173. They are depending on reiteration to impress successful salaries on the public mind.

This system is shown by the Wall Street Journal's statement that "it is evident wage earners have received most of the benefits derived from the expenditure of the $1,100,000,000 for new construction and addition of $400,000,000 to working capital."

In other words, the trust has "plowed back" into the business $1,500,000,000 of its profits. The Journal's claim is against this increased valuation. Yet the Wall Street Journal assures workers they have received most of the benefits, when the record earnings for unskilled labor was $5.02 for a 10-hour day in 1920.

SCORES BOOK CENSORSHIP

New York, April 28.—"Censorship is one of the stupid strategems of democracy to find a way out of responsibility," declared Rabbi Joseph H. Hyle in opposing a bill pending in the state legislature that would censor films. They are moving pictures and works of art.

"If you censor pictures you will find all of our freedom gone," he said. "It is the easiest and cheapest way out for the politicians in the state to do everything for us. I hate obscene things as much as you do, but I am sure censorship is not the way to stop them. I would infinitely rather have those things than any limitation on the freedom of thinking, writing, and publishing. It is the passion of the day to limit freedom."

GET CHANGE OF VENUE.

Charles Town, W. Va., April 28.—Judge Wood has granted a change of venue to several members of the United Mine Workers of America, of this district, who have been indicted on murder charges that have urged by anti-union coal owners. The trials will be held in Lewisburg, Greenbrier county. The labor men claim that the coal owners have corrupted public opinion through the press, and therefore, that makes it impossible to secure a fair trial in this county.

ADOPT NEW NAME.

New York, April 28.—Communists have dropped that title and have merged with the workers' party. The communists, until recently, affected to despise political action, but, somersault shuffle is given the revolutionary deck.

SEAMEN BOUND BACK AFTER 1921 LOCKOUT

New York, April 28.—Wage increases along the Atlantic coast are demanded by the International Seamen's union.

This may have no significance to the average reader of the daily press, but not so to the United States shipping board and to private vessel owners, who started a lockout against this union two years ago. The eight-hour day was abolished, wages reduced and a general anti-union policy assumed.

Officers of the union urged arbitration, but this was refused.

The seamen asked the board and the private vessel owners to agree to give American citizens first preference in employment. This, also, was refused.

The seamen were defeated all along the line, while the board and the private vessel owners talked of the peril of "Americanizing" becoming interested in the merchant marine.

The seamen, however, were neither fooled nor discouraged. They began to reform their lines and are now prepared to again give battle if their opponents of two years ago have learned no lesson.

NEGROES DESERT SOUTH

Washington, April 28.—Southern agriculture must adjust itself to new conditions because of the negro exodus, according to a survey of farming districts in the south by the department of agriculture. The report indicates that the negro now of today will not accept pre-war conditions. The reasons include unrest among returned negro troops who experienced more attractive living conditions away from farms during and after the war, and the breakdown of the contract labor system.

Georgia is hit the hardest by the exodus. Approximately 13 per cent, or 300,000 of the total number of negro farm workers in that state is estimated to have moved north during the last 12 months, and the movement continues, although not for the present season as it already started.

WANT SHERIFF OUSTED.

Tallahassee, Fla., April 28.—Governor Hardee has been requested to oust the county with malfeasance in office and recommends to the state senate that he be ousted from office. This action follows the discovery of the sheriff's policy in aiding employers to lease convicts. Prisoners would be arrested for minor offenses and officials would advise them they would be given a minimum sentence if they plead guilty. Then the prisoner threw himself on the mercy of the court he would be given a heavy sentence and then leased to the Putnam lumber company.

DEFEND HIGH WAGES.

Chicago, April 28.—This is what the Chicago Federation has to say of New York plasterers receiving $12 a day:

"Well, day wages in a trade has to have a hinge, or an extra joint in the back of his neck to succeed in that trade."

MILL WORKERS GAIN.

Rochester, N. Y., April 28.—Mill carpenters in this city have secured wage increases and a union-shop agreement.

CARELESS LAW MAKING ENDANGERS DEMOCRACY

Seattle, April 28.—Our structure of government is endangered when any branch of it is brought into such disrepute with the people generally as is the case with our present state legislature, says W. M. Short, president of the Washington state federation of labor, writing in the official bulletin of that organization.

"The dissatisfaction with the legislature is not confined to any particular group, but each session sees an increasing number of people from every walk of life leaving the capitol disgusted with the legislature."

President Short advances several theories for this condition, and declares that it is "neither practicable nor possible to take 97 people for the lower house and 42 for the senate, chosen from every walk of life, and assemble them together once every two years for a period of 60 days, and expect them to give the necessary thought and time to the legislative business of the state."

The trade unionist recommends that the legislative system be replaced by one legislative body, and that the state be redistricted, with a mandatory redistricting after every census. The short legislative session of 1921 was in session at least nine months of the year and a salary of not less than $3,500 should be paid members.

Anti-Union Rail Officials Would Intimidate Voters

San Bernardino, Cal., April 28.—Officials of the anti-union Santa Fe railroad were in evidence at the municipal election held in this city. The head of the mechanical department considered the election so important he came to this city and took immediate charge of the company's voters. This official, it is stated, actually took hands with every strikebreaker, who was advised to "vote right."

This activity was caused by labor's non-partisan campaign. The workers defeated the vicious non-picketing ordinance, but lost the mayoralty. The closing day of the contest was marked by much bitterness.

WORKERS ALWAYS BLAMED

San Francisco, April 28.—The state labor bureau accident commission points to the policy of always blaming employes for accidents. This practice is a habit, says the commission, to fail to analyze causes and ascertain just what they are.

"The unfortunate employe is usually unable to speak for himself, because he is six feet underground. It looks as though employers were supposed to have all the virtues and none of the frailties of human existence. They must do the exact thing, at the exact time, always make mistakes and have the brain and mind machine of a god.

"The plain truth is that employes are human beings, full of faults, frailties and are careless, just like employers and others. This is not an argument in favor of carelessness, but the truth. It is an appeal for common sense in considering accidents, and for the recognition of human imperfectibility as applicable to employers, employes, editors, and what not."

EMIGRATION NO SOLUTION

London, England, April 28.—"It is an old cry to urge emigration in periods of unemployment," says the Daily Herald in opposing the suggestion for the emigration of two years' surplus of workers to the various Dominions.

"When famine devastated Ireland, emigration was the panacea," says the Herald. "When Scottish agriculture ceased to offer prospects to reasonable prosperity, or a decent living, the emigration was the panacea. The emigrant ships was full. Every industrial slump has been followed by emigration to the overseas shores. But the lands across the Atlantic have ceased to cry out for their criminate populations. Emigration on a huge scale is no longer possible. To attempt to speak of it as possible merely betrays a desire to avoid thinking about it."

ELEVATORS ARE DEADLY.

Washington, April 28.—The April issue of the Monthly Labor Review, published by the United States bureau of labor statistics, contains an account of the hazards incidental to the operation of elevators because of the lack of a fully protective safety code.

The occurrence of 1,122 fatal elevator accidents in Chicago and New York during the past 11 years is evidence, evidence of the need for drastic measures to insure protection against this hazard, it is stated.

HUGE OIL PROFITS.

New York, April 28.—The Sinclair consolidated oil corporation reports its net earnings last year were $30,943,794, compared with $10,795,813 the previous year.

RAIL STOCKHOLDERS HEAR OF SHOP STRIKE

New Haven, Conn., April 28.—Robert Henderson, secretary of the federation of shop crafts on the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad, secured a proxy and attended a meeting of that road's stockholders in this city.

The trade unionist started things when he proposed to issue $5,000,000 in bonds to buy new equipment and replace cash that had been used to defeat the shop men. "Stockholder" Henderson objected.

"If the directors continue this policy of rule and ruin and then ask for more bonds to buy equipment while good equipment out of repair is on the lines, this road will never get ahead," he said.

"If the stockholders want this policy continued there is no hope for the road. I could talk for hours and show you things you don't know. I was offered four dollar proxy by stockholders, but I did not need them.

"When the New Haven road locked out its shop men—for it has been a lockout since September—they drove 5,000 men onto the bricks. You have created bolshevism among men who do not want bolshevism. Is there no justice in this board? I say the employes had cause to strike."

The unionist was finally seated on a point of order.

General Manager Bardo rose to reply, and Henderson gave notice that he would ask for time to answer the charges. The meeting was adjourned without making his statement.

CRITICS STING GARY; FORCED ON DEFENSIVE

New York, April 28.—The whirlwind of protest against Judge Gary's immigration policy has forced him on the defensive for the first time in his life.

He insists that he does not favor unrestricted immigration, and called newspaper reporters to his office that they might make public the glad tidings.

The judge quoted from his stenographic notes of his speech at a meeting of the steel stockholders, in which he objected to the immigration law "as passed." He insisted that these two words were overlooked by his critics.

The incident is significant. It shows its power of publicity and constant agitation. If Judge Gary was not stung by the criticisms, he would never invite newspaper men to his office to hear him explain.

Under the law that he objects to, a check is placed upon unrestricted immigration from the Balkans and southeastern Europe. The quotas from western and northern European countries are yet unfilled, but Judge Gary is not interested in immigrants from these countries. They demand a living wage.

The corporations want the quota from the cheap labor section increased. Of course, they do not want unrestricted immigration. All they want is a sufficient number to keep wages down and make possible an army of strikebreakers.

IDLE ARMY IS WANTED BY STEEL TRUST HEAD

New York, April 28.—"Judge Gary wants two or three men for every job, as was the case nine years ago," said Frank Morrison, secretary of the A. F. of L., in an address before the convention of the United Hatters of North America.

The trade unionist called attention to a statement during the war by a representative of the steel trust that 1,000,000 laborers could be brought here to work on the farms.

"He did not say in steel mills," said Secretary Morrison, "he knew if the Chinese were imported for farm work white labor could not compete and would be driven from the mills. The meat packers were demanding 1,000,000 Chinese at that time."

Judge Gary's labor shortage prevent corporations from bringing in millions of immigrants to replace workers now in the country. Secretary Morrison: "Only today I was told clay workers are leaving New Jersey by the thousands and employers are complaining that they can not get men. They will only pay a certain wage. They, too, want freer immigration. They want to get us where we were in 1914, with millions unemployed."

WORK SAME OLD GAME.

New York, April 28.—Retailers claim they are imposed upon by manufacturers in the present price situation, according to reports that the retailers are simply looking for an alibi. In the trade journals the manufacturers insist that their prices have not been raised to the retailers' answer that the grade of goods has been lowered. It is the same old game of passing the buck from one to the public paying the freight.

COURT AIDS RAILROADS.

Boston, April 28.—The federal court has issued a permanent order restraining the interstate commerce commission from putting into force the order providing for the sale of railroad mileage tickets at a 2-cent rate. Attorneys for the court said the order is "without warrant of law and for this reason it must be annulled."

More than 50 eastern railroads united to attack the commission's order.

HIGH WAGES PAY.

Washington, April 28.—High wages is a good investment, George Halsey, personnel director of a large department store in this city, told a local study club.

Confidential figures from leading department stores of the country, he said, have shown that those with the highest wage scales attract the best salesmen and have the largest volume of business at the lowest gross sale cost. Those with low wage scales have high operating costs and low business volume per worker, he said.

New Steel Production Record Despite Labor Shortage Cry

New York, April 28.—The nerve of big biz is shown by Judge Gary's demand for more immigrants at a time when the steel industry has smashed all production records.

More steel has been manufactured this year than during any like period, even during the stress of the war, when steel production forces were keyed to the highest pitch.

Judge Gary and the controlled press ignores this fact while they would create the impression that the steel industry is failing to pieces because of a lack of unskilled labor. The New York Times prints this Pittsburgh dispatch on the record production of steel:

"Steel production has increased continuously during the first three months of the year, and with March showing an average rate of ingot production of about 45,500,000 tons a year, the rate at the close of the month was probably above 46,000,000 tons. The probability is that the average rate, say from March to June inclusive, will be about 45,000,000 tons, thus making the best showing for sustained production the steel industry has ever recorded.

"In a calendar year the highest production during the war was 43,619,200 tons—in 1917; the highest production before the war was 30,284,682 tons, in 1912, and the highest since the war, 40,881,392 tons, in 1920."

CONTRACT LABOR EVILS EXPOSED IN FLORIDA

Tallahassee, Fla., April 28.—The death of Jim Tabert, a North Dakota boy, in a convict lumber camp in this state, has stirred Florida from Key West to the northern boundary. The evils of convict contract labor has been given wide publicity, and people are connecting this system with the flogging and other corporal punishments that have been inflicted on unfortunate debtors.

It is shown that the Putnam lumber company, in whose camp Tabert died, was assured a continuous supply of labor by arrests on the smallest pretext. The county's law enforcement machinery was set up for the purpose of supplying this demand. Men who were arrested were advised by the sheriff that the surest understanding that they would be either dismissed or given a light sentence. This offered the easy way to adjust the sentence to the labor demands of the lumber company.

Walter Higginbotham, who is under $10,000 bond to answer first degree murder charges in connection with the death of Tabert, told the state legislative committee that he is known as the "whipping boss" for the Putnam company. He said he whipped convicts as often as three and four times a week and sometimes men on each whipping. When prisoners were charged by guards with shirking their work, they would be taken prior to the "whipping boss" in true slavery style.

A. B. Shivers, a former guard, told the committee that convicts were fed on hot water, bacon and corn bread for breakfast six times a week. He said Higginbotham brutally flogged Tabert three days before the youth's death.

COURT AIDS EMPLOYERS; WAGE PARLEY IS CALLED

Washington, April 28.—The national women's trade union league has issued a call for a conference in this city on May 14 to "find some means of stemming the tide of reductions in the salaries of women employes by the decision of the court of Columbia in approving the nullification of the women's minimum wage law by the supreme court of the United States.

The invitation has been forwarded to trade unions, women's organizations, fraternal bodies and labor officials of many states.

As a comparatively late result of the decision of the supreme court, wages in some instances have been cut to $6, $8 and $9 a week," the invitation states.

GOVERNMENT IS BLAMED

New York, April 28.—L. F. Loree, president of the Delaware & Hudson railroad, attacked government regulation of railroads in a speech in this city. Mr. Loree is a leader in the group of hard-boiled managers who are enforcing the present wage cuts of railroad shop men.

He said the present tendency is toward government ownership. "This country, if it continues to follow the policies of the present administration will be the prize paid for incapacity of leadership" on the part of the government in the hands of the railroads, Mr. Loree said declines in the value of railroad stocks affect the investing public and has lost confidence in railroad values.

"Railroad securities are now exactly like a man who is loaded up with inflated railroad stock and who would like to unload, but cannot because of affecting horror at the thought of losing his holdings."

PRINTERS FLOOR SENATE.

Washington, April 28.—In the matter of spelling out of the 1923 regular session of this country, printers in the government printing office forced the senate to accept their style.

"Porto Rico means nothing whatever," said General McIntyre, chief of the bureau of insular affairs. "It is a misnomer. We should have retained the old Spanish spelling of the island (Puerto Rico) and planned to do so when the organic act was first passed by congress. However, the senate had order to spell it Puerto Rico, and every time the bill went to them with the correct spelling it was changed. Finally the senate gave up the wrangle and permitted the present spelling to stand."

DEFEAT EIGHT-HOUR BILL.

Madison, Wis., April 28.—By a vote of 18 to 4 the state senate defeated an eight-hour bill for workers in foundry industries. The bill had been approved by the house.